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STATINTL

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ONE MONTH TO THE DAY AFTER THE SENATE CONFIRMED RICHARD HELMS AS THE NEW HEAD OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, SOME SENATORS WENT CALLING FOR HIS SCALP. WHY THE SUDDEN CHANGE? BECAUSE HELMS WROTE TO THE ST. LOUIS GLOBE DEMOCRAT SAYING HOW PLEASED HE WAS WITH ITS JULY 18 EDITORIAL ENTITLED "PRISONERS FOR FULBRIGHT." THE EDITORIAL SAID THE SENATE HAD GIVEN SEN. J. WILLIAM FULBRIGHT, D-ARK., "HIS CONSPIRACY" FOR TRYING TO INCREASE CONGRESSIONAL CONTROL OVER CIA ACTIVITIES. WHEN THE NEWSPAPER PRINTED HELMS' LETTER, SENATORS ROSE TO DEMONSTRATE. HELMS APOLOGIZED TO FULBRIGHT, BUT SEN. WAYNE MORSE (D-ORE.) IMMEDIATELY CALLED FOR HIS RESIGNATION. THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, OF WHICH FULBRIGHT IS CHAIRMAN AND MORSE A MEMBER, MET IN CLOSED SESSION FRIDAY TO HEAR WHAT HELMS HAD TO SAY. AFTERWARD, IT APPEARED THAT TEMPERE HAD COOLED AND HELMS WOULD KEEP HIS JOB.